

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 01593 111037Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 111010Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8781

S E C R E T TAIPEI 1593

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILL, TW, US

SUBJECT: US MILITARY REDUCTIONS ON TAIWAN

1. THE EMBASSY HAS REPORTED BY SEPTTEL THE AP REPORT SOURCED TO THE BOSTON GLOBE WHICH APPEARED IN TAIPEI MARCH 11 ON PRESIDENT FORD'S REPORTED PLEDGE TO TENG HSIAO-PING TO REDUCE US FORCES ON TAIWAN TO 1100 OVER THE NEXT YEAR.

2. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE GROC IS AWARE THAT RUMORS ON THIS SUBJECT HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING HERE AND IN WASHINGTON AND THE ARTICLE WILL BE VIEWED HERE AS CONFIRMATION OF THE REDUCTION. MOREOVER, WHILE THE PREMIER IS AWARE FROM MY RECENT (MARCH 6) DISCUSSION WITH HIM THAT ADDITIONAL CUTS WILL BE FORTHCOMING, IT IS EXTREMELY UNFORTUNATE TO HAVE SUCH A REPORT APPEAR IN THE MEDIA BEFORE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN HELD WITH THE GROC.

3. THIS NEWS REPORT COMING ON TOP OF THE RUMORS MENTIONED ABOVE TEND TO CREATE DOUBTS ABOUT OUR ABILITY TO PROCEED IN AN ORDERLY FASHION AND TO MAINTAIN GOOD WORKING RELATIONS WITH THE ROC. SIMILAR LEAKS AT A MORE DELICATE TIME IN THE FUTURE COULD HAVE MOST DAMAGING CONSEQUENCES ON OUR RELATIONS WITH THE ROC AND ON ITS STABILITY.

4. I ASSUME WASHINGTON GUIDANCE ON HOW TO HANDLE PRESS ON THIS NEWS STORY WILL BE FORTHCOMING BY IMMEDIATE CABLE. IN THE INTERIM, MISSION WILL REFER QUESTIONERS TO WASHINGTON.

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5. REFERENCES IN AP STORY TO "NUCLEAR AIR FORCE" AND SHULINKOU

RAISE PARTICULARLY DELICATE PROBLEMS. SPECIFIC GUIDANCE REQUESTED
FOR ANSWERS TO QUERIES ON THESE POINTS. UNGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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